



DOCKET: CU-2651

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Bard LOTVEIT)
SERIAL NO: 09/937,591) Group Art Unit: 1733
FILED: September 27, 2001)
TITLE: A GLIDING PREVENTER FOR VEHICLE WHEELS

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AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A device to be fitted on a vehicle wheel of a predetermined size having an outer circumference and inner and outer side surfaces, in order to increase the friction between the wheel and the road surface during winter driving conditions, the device comprising:

an endless annular belt made substantially from textile material and intended to encircle the outer circumference of the wheel;

a flexible inner side portion, having an elastic member, which is tightened against the inner side surface of the wheel by the elastic member when the device is fitted on the wheel; and

a flexible and non-elastically deformable outer side portion which is disposed against the outer side surface of the wheel when the device is fitted on the wheel, the outer side portion being shaped and configured so that the wheel cannot pass through said outer side portion during winter driving conditions.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the outer side portion of the device is designed to cover substantially the outer side surface of the wheel.

5. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 4, wherein the outer side portion of the device is made of a netting material.

6. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the outer side portion of the device has at least one opening, the largest circumference of said opening being less than 2.2 times the largest diameter of the wheel.
7. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the outer side portion of the device is provided with radially extending straps.
8. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein said elastic member comprises a rubber-elastic material which is covered by a spun, woven or knitted substantially inelastic thread material, said thread material limiting the extensibility of said elastic member.
9. (cancelled)
10. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein said textile material is a woven polyamide.
11. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the belt comprises two layers of textile material, one side of each layer being coated with a suitable plastic, the two layers being arranged so that the plastic coatings contact one another.
12. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the belt is of a multilayer construction, the outer surface comprising polyester multifilament yarn oriented crosswise to the circumferential direction of the belt.
13. (original) A device according to Claim 12, wherein the polyester multifilament yarn has a fineness of about 1100 dtex.
14. (original) A device according to Claim 11, wherein the inner layer of the multilayer construction is a different color than that of the outer layer.
15. (original) A device according to Claim 14, wherein the layers are made of a polyester or polyamide multifilament material.
16. (original) A device according to Claim 14, wherein the outer and inner layers are interconnected by a common yarn system in said circumferential direction.
17. (original) A device according to Claim 16, wherein the said common yarn system is made of a polyester multifilament having a fineness of about 1100 dtex.
18. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the inside of the inner side portion of the device is coated by a low friction coating.
19. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 18, wherein said low friction coating is one selected from the group consisting of: silicon polymer, butadiene rubber, neoprene rubber, and PVC.

20. (currently amended) A method for fitting a device on a vehicle wheel, resting against a road surface, to increase the friction between the wheel and the road surface during winter driving conditions, comprising the steps of:

providing a device comprising an endless annular belt made substantially from textile material and intended to encircle the outer circumference of the wheel; a flexible inner side portion, having an elastic member, which is tightened against the inner side surface of the wheel by the elastic member when then the device is fitted on the wheel; and a flexible and non-elastically deformable outer side portion which is disposed against the outer side surface of the wheel when the device is fitted on the wheel, and prevents entire device from passing over to the inner side surface of the ~~wheel~~ wheel, the outer side portion being shaped and configured so that the wheel cannot pass through said outer side portion during winter driving conditions;

fitting the inner side portion of the device over the outer circumference of the wheel to the inner side surface of the wheel along as much as possible of that part of the outer circumference which does not rest against the road surface; and

rotating the wheel by means of the vehicle, whereby the remaining part of the inner side portion of the device moves over the outer circumference of the wheel to fit on the inner side surface of the wheel and pulls the belt in place along the outer circumference of the wheel.

21. (previously presented) A device according to Claim 5, wherein the netting material is a PVC coated 1100 dtex polyester multifilament material having a netting opening of 2-7mm.

22. (currently amended) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the outer side portion radially extends from an internal circumference of the belt toward the center of the wheel over a length which equals at least 17% of the largest internal diameter of the belt ~~so as to prevent the entire device from passing over the wheel to the inner side surface of the wheel~~.

23. (new) A device to be fitted on a vehicle wheel of a predetermined size having an outer circumference and inner and outer side surfaces, in order to increase the friction between the wheel and the road surface during winter driving conditions, the device comprising:

an endless annular belt made substantially from textile material and intended to encircle the outer circumference of the wheel;

a flexible inner side portion, having an elastic member, which is tightened against the inner side surface of the wheel by the elastic member when the device is fitted on the wheel; and

a flexible outer side portion which is disposed against the outer side surface of the wheel when the device is fitted on the wheel;

wherein an outer surface of said endless annular belt is made substantially from an uncoated textile material.

24. (new) The device according to Claim 23, wherein the endless annular belt is made substantially from a polymer textile material.

25. (new) The device according to Claim 23, wherein the endless annular belt is made substantially from a polyester textile material.